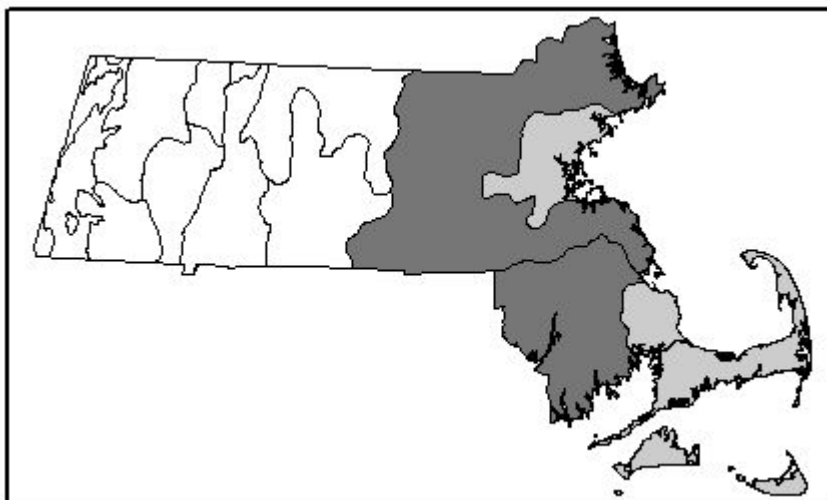


Community Name: ESTUARINE INTERTIDAL: FRESH / BRACKISH TIDAL SWAMP
Community CODE: CE1A000000
SRANK: S1



Concept: Low stature forested wetland located along coastal rivers, at the upper limit of tidal influence, and flooded by daily tides. Dense shrub understory and unusually rich herbaceous layer.

Environmental setting: Tidal swamps occur along free-flowing coastal rivers, occurring upstream of freshwater tidal marsh, within the upper limits of tidal influence. The community represents an ecotone from tidal marsh to more typical non-tidal forested wetlands. Another variation of this community occurs along smaller streams at the upper limit of tidal influence. Tidal amplitude may range from 0 to 40 cm or more (estimated), and average annual salinity is less than 0.5 ppt. in freshwater areas, with gradients to 5 ppt. Brackish occurrences (average annual salinity (0.5) 5 - 18 ppt.) are also believed to occur, although more study is required. The best known occurrence of the community occurs along the edge of a freshwater tidal marsh, at the transition to a large Atlantic white cedar swamp.

Vegetation Description: Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) occur on elevated hummocks, and form an open forest canopy. The shrub layer is often very dense, and typically includes arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*), winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*) and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*). Large mucky hollows flooded by daily tides support a diverse assemblage of herbs and graminoids. Most of these are typical of the nearby freshwater tidal marsh habitat, and include jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*). A similar association is dominated by more dense stands of Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: The size of the swamp and structure produced by the forest and shrubs present are more important to most animals that would use a tidal swamp, than are the slight fluctuations in water levels on a daily basis.

Associated rare plants:

CARDAMINE LONGII	LONG'S BITTER-CRESS	E
CONIOSELINUM CHINENSE	HEMLOCK PARSLEY	SC
LYCOPUS RUBELLUS	GYPSYWORT	E

Associated rare animals:

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Examples with Public Access:	The North River.		
Threats:	Alteration of river hydrology from excessive water withdrawal may have significant effect on plant communities.		
Management needs:	Determine hydrologic requirements, and develop system for monitoring hydrologic stress.		
Synonyms			
USNVC/TNC:	Acer rubrum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica Tidal Woodland Alliance -- Acer rubrum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica / Polygonum spp. Woodland [CEGL006165].		
MA (old name):	Southern New England /Gulf of Maine Fresh/ Brackish Tidal Swamp.		
ME:	Present, not described.		
NH:	Possible, not described.		
NY:	Freshwater Tidal Swamp.		
CT:	Possible, not described.		
RI:	Possible, not described		
Other:			
Author:	Brian Reid	Date:	6/18/99